

GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS

KNOW THE RISKS. SPOT THE SIGNS. ACT FAST.



Dear Colleagues:

September is Sepsis Awareness Month, and CDC is pleased to share the *Get Ahead of Sepsis* educational effort. Please join us this month and all year round as we shine a spotlight on this life-threatening condition.

Sepsis is a medical emergency. At least 1.7 million people each year in the U.S. develop sepsis, and nearly 270,000 people die as a result. Delayed recognition and treatment increases patients' risk of death. *Get Ahead of Sepsis* encourages patients, their caregivers, and healthcare professionals to know the risks, spot the signs and symptoms, and act fast when they suspect sepsis.

We hope you agree that there is a critical need to provide sepsis education. This *Get Ahead of Sepsis* partner toolkit includes communication tools to make it easy for you and your organization to promote sepsis early recognition and prompt treatment, as well as the importance of preventing infections that could lead to sepsis. The toolkit includes:

- Eight Ways to Get Ahead of Sepsis
- Sample social media messages
- Customizable news release
- Drop-in articles
- Educational materials
- Social and digital media

You can access all of this and more at www.cdc.gov/sepsis/education/index.html.

Together, we can protect Americans by recognizing sepsis early and acting fast when it does happen. Patients are counting on us.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to patient safety.

Denise Cardo, MD
Director
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

